

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 CPR-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, IC, US

SUBJECT: PEOPLES ALLIANCE MP URGES GOI TO COUNTER US VISA
REGULATIONS

1. PEOPLES ALLIANCE MP MAGNUS KJARTANSSON HAS INTRODUCED ALTHING RESOLUTION CALLING ON FOREIGN MINISTER "TO ENSURE FULL RECIPROCITY WITH OTHER COUNTRIES REGARDING FREEDOM OF TRAVEL." EXPLANATORY STATEMENT SUBMITTED WITH RESOLUTION SINGLES OUT UNITED STATES AS COUNTRY WHICH IMPOSES TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON ICELANDERS. IT CITES AS EXAMPLE "DIFFICULTIES WHICH A DELEGATION FROM THE ICELANDIC ALTHING ENCOUNTERED IN THE UNITED STATES LAST SUMMER ON THE WAY TO CANADA AT THE INVITATION OF THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT." CLAIMING THAT INCIDENT "SEEMED TO SHOW ENMITY TOWARD THE ICELANDIC ALTHING AND NATION," KJARTANSSON'S STATEMENT GOES ON TO REQUEST GOI "TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER AMERICAN AUTHORITIES ARE PREPARED TO ENSURE FULL FREEDOM OF TRAVEL IN THE US." IF NOT, MEASURE CONCLUDES, "RESTRICTIONS SHOULD BE PUT ON THE TRAVEL OF AMERICANS TO ICELAND." RESOLUTION WAS ON OCTOBER 19 ALTHING AGENDA BUT HAS NOT YET REACHED FLOOR.

2. CASE CITED BY KJARTANSSON BEGAN LATE LAST MAY, WHEN MFA OFFICIAL PHONED EMBOFF TO ASK ABOUT VISA RE-
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QUIREMENTS FOR ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT DELEGATION, IN-

CLUDING SEVERAL MP'S, WHICH WOULD BE PASSING THROUGH US ON OFFICIAL TRIP TO CANADA. EMBOFF ADVISED THAT DELEGATION MEMBERS HAD TWO OPTIONS: THEY COULD OBTAIN TRANSIT (C-3) VISAS, EXPEDITIOUSLY IF NECESSARY, OR THEY COULD TRANSIT WITHOUT VISAS AS LONG AS MEMBERS HAD CONFIRMED ONWARD RESERVATIONS AND STOPOVER IN US WAS NO LONGER THAN EIGHT HOURS. MFA OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE EXPECTED DELEGATION WOULD FOREGO VISAS BECAUSE OF SHORTNESS OF TIME. THIS APPARENTLY PROVED TO BE CASE, SINCE ON JUNE 15, HUSBAND OF DELEGATION MEMBER (SVAVA JAKOBSDOTTIR, PEOPLES ALLIANCE MP) TELEPHONED CONSULAR OFFICER TO SAY THAT HIS WIFE WAS IN TORONTO AND UNABLE TO BOARD FLIGHT TO NEW YORK BECAUSE SHE WAS NOT IN POSSESSION OF VISA. EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY CABLED AMCONGEN TORONTO, REQUESTING THAT TRANSIT VISAS BE ISSUED TO MRS JAKOBSDOTTIR AND ANY OTHER MEMBER OF DELEGATION WHO MIGHT APPEAR AT CONGEN.

3. NOTHING MORE WAS HEARD OF INCIDENT UNTIL JUNE 30, WHEN PA DAILY THJODVILJINN PUBLISHED FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE OFFERING ACCOUNT OF EXPERIENCE BY MRS JAKOBSDOTTIR, WHO COMPLAINED THAT SERVILE GOI AUTHORITIES PERMIT RIGHTS OF ICELANDERS TO BE TRAMPLED ON WHILE IMPOSING NO RECIPROCAL MEASURES. MATTER THEN DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT UNTIL RESURRECTED LAST WEEK BY KJARTANSSON. THERE WERE NO PUBLIC COMPLAINTS FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF DELEGATION. ONE OF THESE, IN FACT, ORGANIZATION OF LIBERALS AND LEFTISTS CHAIRMAN MAGNUS TORFI OLAFSSON, LAUGHED OFF INCIDENT WHEN EMBOFF EXPRESSED REGRET ANY INCONVENIENCE.

4. AS RESULT OF KJARTANSSON'S RESOLUTION, MFA DEPPERMUNDERSEC HELGASON LAST WEEK REQUESTED AMBASSADOR TO PROVIDE WRITTEN SUMMARY OF US VISA REGULATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS WHICH WE HAVE NOW DONE, HELGASON MENTIONED, WHEN MAKING REQUEST, THAT HE WAS SEEKING SAME INFORMATION FROM SOVIET AND EASTERN EUROPEAN EMBASSIES.

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5. COMMENT: KJARTANSSON IS OLD-LINE COMMUNIST, WELL KNOWN AS US-BAITER (AS IS JAKOBSDOTTIR). HIS MOTIVES IN SUBMITTING "FREEDOM OF TRAVEL" RESOLUTION ARE TRANSPARENTLY POLITICAL, AND OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT MEASURE IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY TO GET OFF THE GROUND.
BLAKE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 20 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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